Irregularities in Implementation of JRY in Bihar

2887. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mukhiyas, districtwise, in Bihar recently divested of their powers following detection of large scale bungling and irregularities committed by them in implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;

(b) whether it is a fact that people of the State have not benefited from JRY;

(c) whether it is also a fact that much of the development work under JRY is done on paper only and the money sirhoned off by the officials involved; and

(d) if so, the details of such bungling and irregularities for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of New Observatory in Ladakh

2888. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new observatory is likely to be set up in Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the effective date of such establishment with background;

(c) whether establishment of this observatory at a height of 18, 000 feet would have some unique features; and

(d) if so details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIYOGINDER. K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, an autonomous institution of Department of Science and Technology, is planning to set up a new observatory in the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir. The proposed 2-m telescope can be operated remotely using a satellite based computer-to-computer communication link. It is expected to be made fully operational during the Ninth Plan period.

(c) and (d) The project consists of setting up of 2-m class infrared optical telescope at the summit of Dikpa Raja Ree near Hanle Monastery, Changthang Ladakh region. The height of the summit is 15,000 feet. The region has the unique advantage of being among the few high-altitude, cold and dry sites in the world. This is a highly desired environment for astronomy at the infra-red and sub-millimetre wavelengths. It will ensure high transparency of earth's atmosphere to the light received from celestial sources and will help in probing deeper into the Universe.

Technological Limitations of Power Electronics Industry

2889. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present technology in our country in the power electronics industry is limited to medium size devises;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to encourage its upgradation and development;

(c) whether Government are aware that the UPS market in the country is picking up; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken to promote industry in this market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir. Power semi-conductor devices of 7KW-1800 Amps are now being manufactured in the country right from the diffusion level for High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) applications. Industrial grade power semi-conductor devices (namely, diodes and thyristors) for power electronics equipment up to 6MW capacity are now manufactured regularly in the country.

(b) Power semi-conductor diodes and thyristors are already being manufactured even in the high-power range. However, manufacturing base for other power semi-conductor devices remains to be established. As a result of the promotional efforts of the Department of Electronics, manufacturing of HVDC grade